Bangalore for the above project. It was understood that after evaluation of technical and commercial offers, the price bid was opened in September, 1991 and MAMC was L-l out of 8 ten dferers. On a reference from MAMC the Department of Heavy Industry took up the matter with the State Government in December, 1991 for placement of above order on MAMC. The financial soundness of MAMC was also emphasised to the State Government for consideration of their offer. A response from the State Government is still awaited.

Substitute for cement from fly ash

1535. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to ftate;

(a) whether some Indian technologists have developed a cheaper substitute for cement from flyash, a waste generated by coal based the:-mal power plants, which can reduce construction cost and also reduce pollution substantially;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to try this cheaper cement for construction purposes on experimental basis; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL, DEVELOPMENT) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c) There are many technologies well known for using flyash either as binder in combination with the lime or a binding material in the manufacture of Portland Pozzolana Cement (PPC). PPC is already being manufactured by a large number of existing cement companies and is being used for con-struction purposes.

1536. *[Transferred to* 28th. *July* 1992]

संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका और अरब देशों में खादी और ग्रामोद्योग के बिक्री केन्द्र

1537. श्री विश्वासराव रामराव पाटिल : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार को अरब देशों और संयुक्त राज्य अमरीका की फर्मों से उन देशों में खादी और ग्रामोद्योगों के बिक्री केंद्र खोलने के प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(ग) इस मामले में सरकार ने क्या निर्णय लिया है ?

उद्योग मंत्रालय (लघु उद्योग और कृषि तथा ग्रामीण उद्योग विभाग) में राज्य मंत्री और वाणिज्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० जे० कुरियन) : (क) और (ख) के. वी. आई. सी. को मस्कट में खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन खोलने के लिए मस्कट, ओमान की सल्तनत की एक फर्म से एक प्रस्ताव प्राप्त हुआ है । के.वी.आई.सी. को बिक्री केंद्र खोलने के लिए यू.एस.ए. से कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है । उद्योग ने मस्कट की एक फर्म से प्राप्त उक्त प्रस्ताव पर अभी तक विचार नहीं किया है ।

(ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

1536. *[Transferred to* 28th July, 1992].

Financial crisis in BHBL's Hyderabad unit

1539. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited at Hyderabad is facing acute financial crisis; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the present state of the unit and the steps

taken by Government to resolve the crisis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) BHEL's manufacturing plant at Hyderabad is facing financial problems due to delayed payments by its customers. Besides, some of its products like thermal sets, gas turbine-generator sets and oil rigs are presently having a lean order book. BHEL is taking following steps to side over the situation;

(i) Vigorous follow-up with its customers for the realisation of dues;

(ii) Increase supply of spares;

(iii) Take-up renovation and life extension work;

(iv) Diversification into new business areas; and

(v) Increase exports.

Voluntary Retirement Scheme in PSUs

1540. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some of the P.S.Us such as EPI have formulated voluntary retirement scheme years ago but had not implemented it so far; and

(b) whether Government would ensure that these arc implemented in order to make P.S.Us more economically viable and productive?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) EPI has formulated voluntary retirement scheme and the same has been notified by the company w.e.f. 1.7-1992. Voluntary Retirement Schemes have to be formulated by the Public Sector Enterprises themselves. Since the retirement from. service is voluntary under the said scheme, its implementation depends upon the response from the employees. Government gives some financial support for funding VRS in deserving cases especially in sick P.S,Us.

Maruti Udyog Ltd.

1541. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maruti Udyog Ltd. is now a private company;

(b) what is the total investmant of the Government of India in Maruti Udyog Ltd. so far, including any losses etc., suffered by Government so far;

(c) what is the total forex given by Government so far out of its own reserves; and

(d) whether Government propose to stop giving any forex, as in the case of TELCO, TISCO etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES) (SHRI P. K. TlHUNGON): (a) Maruti Udyog Limited is now not a Government Company in terms of the Companies Act.

(b) The present equity-holding of Government of India in Maruti Udyog Limited is Rs. 65,80,18,100. Maruti Udyog Ltd. has not suffered any loss so far in any financial year.

(c) Maruti Udyog Limited utilised Rs. 721.18 crores of free foreign exchange (net of foreign exchange earnings) for importing components till 31.3.1992.

(d) In terms of Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System, Maruti Udyog Limited will have to